

RIVER PROTECTION GRANTS

Authorization: ss. 281.70 and 281.71, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 195, Wis. Admin. Code

Budget: 2010 Fiscal Year = \$289,500
2011 Fiscal Year = \$289,500

Objective: To protect and restore rivers and their ecosystems.

Eligibility: Counties, cities, towns, villages, Indian tribes, other local governmental units [as defined in s. 66.299(1)(a), Wis. Stats.], qualified river management organizations [as defined in s. NR 195.02 (2), Wis. Admin. Code], and qualified nonprofit conservation organizations [as defined in s. 23.0995(1), Wis. Stats].

Level of Assistance: Reimbursement of 75% of project costs up to a maximum grant amount of \$10,000 for planning projects and \$50,000 for management projects.

Priorities: Priorities are set on a statewide basis (see s. NR 195.09, Wis. Admin. Code), and consider the following factors:

Planning Projects:

- The degree to which the project assists creation or enhancement of a local river management organization and can demonstrate how the use of the funds will build the capacity of the organization to protect and restore the river and its ecosystem
- The degree to which the project assists local decision making or formation of a strategy to protect the quality of a river's ecosystem
- The degree to which the project will enhance knowledge and understanding of a river's ecosystem
- The degree to which the project is supported in a federal, state or local resource plan and makes efficient use of all other available funding sources
- The degree of public support for the project whether it is a first-time project
- Management Projects:
- The degree to which the project will protect critical riverine ecosystems
- The degree to which the project will restore the quality of a river ecosystem or aids in the linkage or concentration of critical habitat
- The degree to which the proposed activities have a good likelihood of successfully meeting the project objectives and where the sources or causative factors of the problems to be remediated have been or very likely will be controlled prior to management activities

- The degree to which the project is supported in a federal, state, or local resource plan and makes efficient use of all other available funding sources
- The degree of public support for the project
- Whether it is a first time project

Eligible Types of Projects:

Planning Projects:

Organizational development, education, data collection, water quality assessment, pollution control evaluation, description and mapping of existing and potential land and water resource conditions, activities and uses within a riverine ecosystem that may affect its quality, and dissemination of information obtained during the project.

Management Projects:

Purchase of land or conservation easements, development of local regulations or ordinances that will protect or improve water quality, installation of practices to control nonpoint source pollution, restoration including instream or shoreland habitat and protection, and restoration projects identified in a department approved plan.

Applications: Application information is available from DNR regional Environmental Grants Specialists or [DNR regional River Coordinators](#). Applications must be received in the DNR regional offices by May 1 of each year.

History: Since the program began in 2000, more than \$850,000 has been provided for river protection grants.

Contact: For questions about eligible projects, contact the appropriate [DNR regional River Coordinator](#). For questions about eligible costs, contact the appropriate DNR regional Environmental Grants Specialist.

Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Grants/Rivers/riverplanning.html>